

### REMARKS

Claims 1 – 10, 12 – 19, 30 – 32 and 34 – 37 are pending; claims 12 – 19, 30 – 32, 34, 36 and 37 are allowed; and claims 1 – 10 and 35 are rejected. The Examiner rejects claims 1 – 10 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of U.S. Patent 3,069,021 issued to Gray (Gray).

Applicant notes that the Examiner cited Gray in a previous Office Action mailed 13 September 2002 to support her rejection against claims 1 – 10. Applicant persuasively argued against this rejection in their response filed 21 February 2003. As noted on page 3 of the current Office Action, the Examiner now asserts a new ground for rejecting claims 1 – 10 and 35 over Gray.

The applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection of claims 1 – 10 and 35 as pending in the current Office Action. The applicant amends claim 1 not to overcome the Examiner's rejection based on Gray, but to more clearly recite the subject matter of claim 1. The applicant asserts that claims 1 – 10 and 35, as amended, are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed below.

#### Rejection of Claims 1 – 10 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 because Gray fails to disclose a support that includes a leg operable to support the support in an upright position, and a biasing member operable to simultaneously move the leg and an arm of the support.

The applicant's claim 1, as amended, recites a support that includes a leg operable to support the support in an upright position. The support also includes a biasing member operable to simultaneously move the leg and an arm of the support.

For example, an embodiment of the support 10 is shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, and includes arms 12, legs 14 and a biasing member 21. In an uncollapsed state (shown in FIG. 1), the legs 14 may support the support 10 in an upright position.

In contrast, Gray fails to disclose a support that includes a leg operable to support the support in an upright position, and a biasing member that is operable to simultaneously move the leg and an arm of the support. Gray discloses a garment hanger that includes spreader rods 16 operable to support a garment off the floor while the garment dries, brace rods 34 operable to support the spreader rods 16 in an extended position, and supporting members 12 operable to support the hanger in an upright position. The brace rods 34 do not support the hanger in an upright position. Thus, unlike the legs of the applicant's support, Gray's brace rods are not operable to support the hanger in an upright position.

Furthermore, because the garment does not include a biasing member, simultaneously extending the spreader rods 16 and supporting members 12 requires one to move two different components of the garment hanger at the same time. To extend the spreader rods 16, one has to slide with one hand the spider member 36 relative to the column 2, and to extend the supporting members 12, one has to slide with the other hand the locking sleeve 60 relative to the column 2. Thus, unlike the applicant's support, Gray's hanger does not include a biasing member operable to simultaneously move the spreader rods and the supporting members.

Therefore, Gray fails to disclose a support including a leg that is operable to support the support in an upright position, and a biasing member that is operable to simultaneously move the leg and an arm of the support.

Claims 2 – 10 and 35 are patentable by virtue of their dependencies on claim 1 as amended.

### **Conclusion**

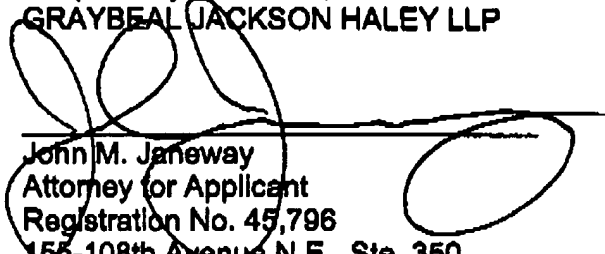
Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw his rejection of claims 1 – 10 and 35 in view of applicant's remarks and issue an allowance for claims 1 – 10, 12 – 19, 30 – 32 and 34 – 37.

Should any additional fees be required, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 07-1897.

If the Examiner believes that a phone interview would be helpful, he is respectfully requested to contact the Applicant's attorney, John Janeway, at (425) 455-5575.

DATED this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 2004.

Respectfully submitted,  
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